

# Focus On County Government

Fall/Winter 2002

Volume 12, Issue 21

## Executive Report...

Dear Friend:

Welcome to the Fall/Winter 2002 edition of "Focus on County Government."

Waukesha County continues to work hard to provide quality services to our constituents in a fiscally responsible manner. The 2003 Waukesha County budget, themed "Performance with Integrity", invests in services that work, reduces or eliminates funding in those services that don't, and offers significant tax savings to each and every municipality in Waukesha County through consolidated dispatch.

This budget reflects Waukesha County's commitment to maintaining the public's trust and our values in providing responsible and ethical government services. We continue to invest in our seniors, our youth, public safety, transportation, technology, parks, and open space. In doing so, we made necessary decisions to balance our needs with the desire for limited, responsible government.

Waukesha County is well aware of the fiscal pressures that every individual and business face. With that in mind, this budget was prepared so county government would not burden taxpayers.

I am proud to state that this budget addresses our priorities and also reduces the county property tax rate for the 13<sup>th</sup> year in a row. As proposed, the county property tax rate will drop to \$2.31 per \$1,000 in equalized value. Our commitment to fiscal responsibility has served this County well over the years and it continues today.

We value your input on how Waukesha County government is performing for you. Please contact me at 548-7902 or send me an e-mail at [countyexec@waukeshacounty.gov](mailto:countyexec@waukeshacounty.gov) with your comments and suggestions.



Waukesha County Executive  
Daniel M. Finley

County Executive



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## 5-Year Budget Trends...

Budget Year	General Purpose Property Tax Levy	Tax Rate/\$1000	Rate Change
2003	\$78,137,126	\$2.31	-4.48%
2002	\$ 75,223,129	\$ 2.42	- 1.76%
2001	\$ 70,974,058	\$ 2.46	- 4.50%
2000	\$ 68,231,014	\$ 2.58	- 3.72%
1999	\$ 66,331,114	\$ 2.68	- 2.19%

# 211

HELP is a 3-DIGIT NUMBER

Your Information & Referral Help-Line for:  
- Health and Human Services  
- Government  
- Volunteerism

**CALL 24 hours a day, everyday!**

## In The News...

### Federated Library System Awards

The Waukesha County Federated Library System has received three Library Achievement Awards from the National Association of Counties (NACO) for the following programs:

- Balancing Books and Bytes:  
Countywide Library Planning
- Mobile Wireless Training Labs
- Communities Connected:  
Internet Training in Public Libraries

In each of the programs, the creative use of technology has increased computer access for County residents.

### Land Information on the Web

Land information is available via the County's website and allows users to search by address, tax key number or by displayed map location.

Some of the data users will find includes: lot dimensions, right-of-ways, street names, floodplains, soil types, and elevation.

Please visit the website address below for access:  
<http://www.waukeshacounty.gov/landandparks/>.

### Trawicki Appointed Sheriff

Waukesha County Sheriff-Elect Dan Trawicki was appointed acting Sheriff by Governor Scott McCallum on Tuesday, September 11, 2002, at 12 p.m.

### Purchasing Enhances Business

The Department of Administration's Purchasing Division is using technology to enhance business.

By clicking on Vendor Services, located on the County's homepage at [www.waukeshacounty.gov](http://www.waukeshacounty.gov), potential bidders will be able to view and download Bid and Request For Proposal documents of interest.

### Hazardous Waste Gets Disposed

The County's Hazardous Waste Program offers businesses, farms, greenhouses, and nurseries an inexpensive, convenient and safe option for disposing hazardous materials.

Drop-off sites include:

#### City of Muskego (Jensen Environmental Management)

W144 S6347 College Court, Muskego

Hours: Saturdays, from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

#### City of Waukesha (Incinerator)

900 Sentry Drive, Waukesha

Hours: 2nd & 4th Saturdays monthly, from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.;

3rd Wednesdays, May-October, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

All facilities are closed on holidays. Pre-registration is required. Call the Recycling and Solid Waste office at (262) 896-8327 or visit [www.waukeshacounty.gov/recycling](http://www.waukeshacounty.gov/recycling) for more information.

## Volunteers Help Drive Program...

Waukesha County's Department of Senior Services Home Delivered Meal Program has a critical need for volunteer drivers to adopt-a-route and deliver meals during lunch to seniors and homebound persons over the age of 60.

The program provides a safe and nutritionally balanced meal on a donation basis, allows individuals to live independently in their homes as long as possible, and saves money for both the recipient and the community by reducing healthcare expenses.

Meal recipients receive annual health assessments from the department, which are ranked according to high, medium and low risk categories. Information is also collected on health history, eating habits, and medication usage.

According to the 2000 U.S. Census Bureau statistics, the County shows a 35.2% increase in the number of adults over the age of 60 in 1990, ranking its senior population the second highest in the state.

Last year, volunteers helped deliver over 95,000 meals for the County, but due to the rapid increase in senior population and program enrollment, more drivers are needed.

In addition, there are fee-based providers that offer meals to the homebound that do not meet the criteria for the County program. These organizations also use volunteer services to deliver food and served over 60,000 people in 2001.

Program volunteers must be over the age of 18. Convenient routes are available and can be scheduled weekly, monthly or on an as needed basis. Individuals and groups are welcome to participate.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer driver, please contact Melinda Stuart in the University of Wisconsin-Extension at (262) 970-4713. For more information about receiving home delivered meals, please contact Mary Smith in the Department of Senior Services at (262) 548-7834.



A volunteer delivers lunch to a home delivered meal recipient.

## County Executive Awards...

The Seventh Annual County Executive Awards Luncheon was presented by County Executive Finley and co-sponsored by US Bank and WISN 12, on October 2, at the Country Inn.

The award program recognizes organizations in the business, public, and non-profit sectors that contribute to the continued success of the County and its citizens.

The 2002 County Executive Award winners are:

- **R. A. Smith & Associates**  
Business of the Year
- **La Casa de Esperanza, Inc.**  
Non-Profit of the Year
- **Pewaukee Fire Department**  
Government Agency of the Year

University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Chancellor Nancy L. Zimpher, was the event's distinguished keynote speaker. In

her address, she emphasized the importance of innovation to achieve success and applauded the award winners for their creative use of it.

Organizations nominated for the award are assessed by a panel of judges as to how they meet the needs of four stakeholders: customers, investors, employees, and the community at large.

The Business of the Year and the Government Agency of the Year receive beautiful awards. In addition to the award, the Non-Profit of the Year receives a \$5,000 grant from US Bank.



Anselmo Villarreal of La Casa de Esperanza thanks County Executive Finley, Deb Kavanaugh of U.S. Bank and Rebecca Kleefisch of Channel 12.

## Self-Help is a Success...

The Waukesha County Family Court Self-Help Center opened on February 18, 2002, to provide family court information and public resources that focuses on people representing themselves (pro se litigants).

Since then, staff have had contact with approximately 4,455 individuals in person, by phone, or via email, and the program's website has been accessed more than 6,382 times.

The number of people being served through this program has far exceeded expectations, and the positive feedback from users has been gratifying.

Center staff have become partners with the many agencies in

our County whose customers often require multiple services. These partnerships have enhanced customer relations through the sharing of materials and information saving the public time, frustration and filling an important need.

The greatest accomplishment in partnering with these agencies is the easy-to-follow forms, instructions and other materials developed as a part of this program can be shared with other counties in the state, allowing them to provide the same tools to their customers.

The program is a great example of a collaborative effort that is a win-win for both the providers of service and those who need the service.

## Smart Tip...

### Batteries Won't Recharge? Recycle It!

Whether at work or at home, people enjoy the convenience of rechargeable batteries. More than 350 million rechargeable batteries are purchased annually in the United States. When thrown away, these batteries can contribute to the toxicity levels of landfills and incinerator ash due to heavy metal contents. Recycling rechargeable batteries not only gives new life to discarded products, but it helps prevent the release of hazardous waste into the environment.

About 80% of rechargeable batteries are currently composed of nickel and cadmium (known as "Ni-Cd"), which is used in cellular phones, laptop computers, cordless power tools and video cameras. Another type of rechargeable battery, small sealed lead acid batteries (SSLA), contains lead and is used in emergency lighting, security and alarm systems, computer back-up devices, and in hospital equipment.

Ni-Cd and SSLA rechargeable batteries that can be recycled will be labeled with a symbol below:



If you're looking for a way to recycle rechargeable batteries at home, the following businesses accept them: ACE Hardware, Batteries Plus, Wal-Mart, Black & Decker Service Center, Circuit City Super Store, Radio Shack, and Target.

Cellular phone batteries, Ni-CD and SSLA, can be recycled at Ameritech Cellular Centers and Batteries Plus, or you can call Recycle Technologies Inc., at (262) 798-3040.

More information can be obtained from the Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation at (800) 8-BATTERY or on the web at [www.rbrc.org](http://www.rbrc.org).

## Waukesha County Executive's Office

1320 Pewaukee Road, Rm 320  
Waukesha, WI 53188

Phone: (262) 548-7902

Fax: (262) 896-8510

Website: [www.waukeshacounty.gov](http://www.waukeshacounty.gov)



Waukesha County Executive  
Daniel M. Finley

## Waukesha County Reads...

Waukesha County's Federated Library System has collaborated with its 16-member public libraries, area schools, local businesses, government agencies, and community organizations to launch "Waukesha County Reads", a reading program designed to encourage teens and adults to read and discuss selected books.

Lois Lowry's 1994 Newbery Medal winning book entitled *The Giver* has been chosen as the first selection for the program, which began on September 16 and concluded on November 1.

In addition to area discussion groups, Lowry made a guest appearance for a special presentation and autograph session promoting the book at the Sharon Lynne Wilson Center for the Arts, 19805 W. Capitol Drive, Brookfield, on October 27, from 2-5 p.m.

*The Giver* is a novel about a "perfect" community sometime in the future, and it explores many important social and po-

litical issues involving family life and forms of government.

Planning is already underway for the next "Waukesha County Reads" event, which will be held from March 1 to April 12, 2003. A book selection has not been made yet, but a committee of librarians is considering the following titles:

- *The Color of Water* by James McBride
- *Ava's Man* by Rick Bragg
- *A Lesson Before Dying* by Ernest Gaines.

As the date nears, the selected book and program details will be released. Watch for more information in your community newspaper or visit your local library.

For more information about the program, please contact Waukesha County's Federated Library System at (262) 896-8080 or on the web at [www.wcfls.lib.wi.us](http://www.wcfls.lib.wi.us).